FAMILY (DIS)HARMONY IN FRONT OF THE COMPUTER SCREEN
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Abstract
The main characteristic of communication technologies is that they are more and more present in our private homes. As a consequence, computer technology plays an important role in the process of building our private sphere. At the same time, these technologies are the subject of increasing domestification. This process of domestification includes the analysis of causes, motives and patterns of adoption of communication technologies. The interviews with parents and their children in various Slovene families have shown that the Internet is considered the most important dimension of the computer as a modern domestic appliance. This possibility of logging on to the Web has substantially contributed to the spreading of the communicational and social dimensions of computer technology. Although at the beginning the computer was considered primarily as “a business device” or “a toy”, new meanings are attributed to it nowadays: the computer is not only “an investment for the future” or “the extension of parental responsibilities”. It also has several controversial roles, such as being “an intruder” or “a destroyer of personal relationships” on the one hand, or “a comforter” and “a multi-tool for every occasion” on the other, depending on the generation that the user belongs to. While young people perceive computer technology as a bridge between various structures of everyday life, their parents often consider the same technology as a major factor of the disintegration of family life.

Publications:


